

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Lee (US 6,256,235).

In the response to the argument section on page 7 of the Office Action, it is argued that Lee, col. 7, lines 54-62 describes the slot position information and on page 2 and top of page 3, the Office Action also points to col. 8, lines 1-6. It appears that the "transmission delay time" of Lee is being equated to applicant's slot position information.

Lee describes interrogating modules but only determines which slots are populated. The Office Action admits as much in the Response to Arguments section. This information is used to determine the number of modules which are coupled to the bus and depending on the number of modules, the appropriate wave form is determined.

This teaches nothing concerning a slot position information. The only teaching is that a number of populated slots is determined.

It is important to note that in col. 7, lines 54-62, Lee teaches that the same data out wave form is used for data from all modules of the bus system but the waveform is changed depending on the number of modules coupled to the bus. The memory controller interrogates the modules in populated slots to determine the number of modules coupled to the bus. This is completely different from applicant's claimed invention where a slot position information is used, not simply the number of modules on the bus.

The Office Action continues stating that a measure of data signal delay "inherently" teaches determining a slot position or slot position information. Applicant respectfully disagrees as follows:

The reference describes in col. 8, related to Fig. 8 measuring of data signal transmission delay. In this embodiment the reference describes that path delays between the controller and a module may be compensated for. To determine the compensation a loop-back is utilized from the controller.

Transmission delay depends on many factors and not just a distance between a transmitter and receiver. Even Lee teaches that the transmission delay is not equal to distance. Lee describes in col. 2:40-50 that "The physical and electrical attributes of the bus, as seen by the device driver, depend upon the physical location of any termination resistance, the presence of other devices on the bus, the location to either end of the bus, the length of stubs connecting the device to the main bus, or the location of parasitic capacitance on the bus." (Emphasis added). Lee again describes in col. 7:54-61 that the waveform depends on the number of modules on the bus.

Lee clearly teaches what one skilled in the art would understand, that transmission delay time depends on many factors and does not inherently teach the distance between the transmitter and receiver. The proposed relationship as "inherent" is not supported by knowledge of one skilled in the art and in fact Lee does not even teach the relationship proposed in the Office Action between measured signal delay.

Even if that were arguably the case, applicant's claim recites the slot position information, applicant's claim is not reciting the distance between the transmitter and receiver.

It is respectfully submitted that such a feature is not inherent as even Lee teaches. Again even if it was inherent it is not what applicant is claiming, applicant claims the slot position information.

Two examples are provided below which also support that the teachings of Lee do not inherently describe applicant's claimed invention.

In the reference, as one example of why it is different, if two populated slots were equal distance from the controller in opposite directions, the reference could not **"controlling a waveform of said signal on the basis of installed slot position information"** as claimed by applicant. As argued in the Office Action the distance is equal to the slot position (bottom of page 7), however it is submitted that Lee could not judge the difference between the two different slots which were equal distance from the transmitter because Lee does not teach the slot position information.

Another example as to why this is different: Lee teaches controlling the waveform based on transmission delay. In Lee if a particular slot would require particular waveform characteristics regardless of the transmission delay (for example Lee teaches the length of stubs connecting the device to the main bus, the location of parasitic capacitance on the bus, etc.), Lee cannot accommodate such a feature because Lee only describes determining based on transmission delay and not based on slot position information.

Applicant's claimed invention provides the advantages of **"controlling a waveform of said signal on the basis of installed slot position information"** which allows applicant to provide waveform characteristics based on the slot position. Applicant does not claim determining the transmission delay. Applicant can provide waveform characteristics irregardless of the transmission delay.

Lee's determining of transmission delay time is different from the slot position information of applicant's claims. One skilled in the art would not arrive at applicant's claimed invention from the reading of Lee.

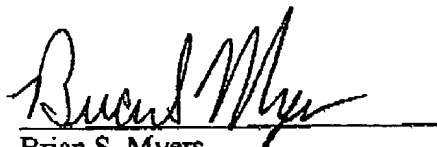
Applicant's independent claims each include at least the feature of controlling the waveform based on the slot position information. The dependent claims include additional distinguishing limitations.

For at least the foregoing reasons it is respectfully requested the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,


Brian S. Myers
Reg. No. 46,947

CUSTOMER NUMBER 026304
Telephone: (212) 940-8703
Fax: (212) 940-8986 or 8987
Docket No.: FUJS 18.509 (100794-11673)
BSM:fd